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Hush-Hush C. I. A. to Indulge In Its First Publicity Splash

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (UPI)—The Central Intelligence Agency, so hush-hush that it once would not give out its telephone number, is getting ready for the biggest public splash in its thirteen-year history.

It is making elaborate arrangements to have all the world see, read about or hear of the laying of the cornerstone for its new \$48,000,000 building in the Virginia countryside near Washington.

President Eisenhower is to officiate at the Nov. 3 ceremony that will have coverage by television and radio broadcasters, newsreel cameramen, and newspaper reporters and photographers.

Ordinarily the event would simply mean the placing of another cornerstone for another Government building. But there is nothing ordinary in the issuance of engraved invitations by Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence. These have gone out to the dignitaries to be assembled.

As one anonymous (and they are nearly all anonymous) C. I. A. man put it, "we've never had an open house before."

The present headquarters in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington has never had a welcome mat. Guards put visitors through a strict sign-in-sign-out procedure.

As the hub of American intelligence activities the C. I. A. keeps itself so secret that it refuses to say how much money it spends, how it spends the money, who works for it, or what work they do.

However, it now gives some clues to its scope and size.

In a break with the secrecy

it proclaims that its new building is to have 1,000,000 square feet of space and stand seven stories tall. It announces that the building's cafeteria will seat more than 1,000 persons and its modernistic auditorium 500.

The building, scheduled for completion in July, 1961, is, in the architect's drawing, one of the handsomest in the Capital area. However, its interior will still be inaccessible to the general view. It will be impossible without credentials to get through the tightly-guarded gates.

The site is about fifteen miles from downtown Washington. The 140-acre grounds will be bounded not only by a steel fence but by trees that will keep all but a little of the building from being seen from the highway.

Although it maintains stringent secrecy concerning its basic activities, the C. I. A. has relaxed some of its rules since its formation in 1946. Its clerical employees now are allowed to tell their friends where they work and its telephone number is listed in the Washington directory.

Anyone finding the number in the book had better know whom he is calling, because the C. I. A. switchboard operator won't tell. In accordance with regulations, she answers by repeating the dialed number, rather than mentioning the C. I. A.

That, one official explained, is so that people will not know they are calling the C. I. A. if they do not know they are calling the C. I. A.

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